

Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update: 02/19/10



DISEASE INFORMATION

Summary – Week 7 – Ending 02/20/10 – Disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period February 14-20, 2010 included the following:

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Varicella (8)
- Enteric Diseases: Campylobacteriosis (3), Giardiasis (1)
- Other Conditions: Aseptic Meningitis (1)
- Travel Related Conditions: None

NOTE: The report has multiple pages reflecting the following information: (1) vaccine preventable and enteric diseases YTD; (2) other communicable diseases YTD; (3) cases just this week; (4) clusters and outbreaks; and (5) an STD summary.

NEW! Surveillance Snippets

- When reporting any vaccine preventable disease, it is very important to collect *travel / exposure history and vaccination information, including dates of travel and dates of vaccination!*
- Clusters of varicella are being reported throughout the state. Strategies for controlling outbreaks can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/varicella/outbreaks/manual.htm>.

THE “BUZZ”

Influenza

Montana – Activity level in Montana is **NO ACTIVITY**. As of February 27, 2010, 761 MPHL PCR confirmed influenza cases had been reported from 40 counties since August 30, 2009. **No MPHL PCR confirmed cases have occurred since January 16, 2010.** Of the 2876 specimens submitted to the Montana Public Health Laboratory since August 30, 2009, 761 have been confirmed as 2009 H1N1 influenza cases. Of the 10,685 reports of confirmed or suspected H1N1 cases from providers and local health departments, 181 were hospitalized. 41% were female. Median age of those hospitalized was 42 (range 1 month – 88 years). 62% had underlying health conditions. Seventeen influenza-related deaths have been reported in Montana.

IMPORTANT! Rapid tests are not performing reliably at this point; false positives are occurring. If providers want accurate information about influenza status on a patient, it is recommended that specimens be sent to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for PCR testing. Current information on influenza testing by the Montana Public Health Laboratory can be found at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/enviro-lab-index.shtml>.

United States - During week 7 (02/20/10), influenza activity stayed at the same level with no states reporting widespread activity; 3 states, regional; PR and 8 states, local activity; DC, Guam and 35 states, sporadic activity; 3 states and Virgin Islands, no activity. Influenza and pneumonia deaths and doctor visits for flulike illnesses dropped below baseline levels. (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>)

NEW! Worldwide - Though flu activity continues to taper off in many Northern Hemisphere countries, the virus is still active in areas such as Eastern Europe and central Asia, and there are increased reports of new pandemic activity in the West African countries Senegal and Mauritania. Many countries in the Northern Hemisphere have had two pandemic flu waves; however, many Southern Hemisphere nations have had only one, and those countries are just entering their winter months, when increased influenza activity is anticipated. The Southern Hemisphere's flu season typically runs from May through October; however, the pandemic H1N1 virus has been unpredictable, peaking twice in some countries such as the United States outside the normal flu season.

Diarrheal Disease and Food Recalls

NEW! Norovirus – Montana is currently experiencing increased levels of norovirus activity, particularly among residents of long-term care facilities and assisted living centers. Since January 1, 2010, a total of 5 different outbreaks occurring in

5 separate Montana communities have sickened approximately 165 residents and staff. Additionally, there have been reports and confirmed cases in 8 counties around the state (Cascade, Chouteau, Lewis & Clark, Park, Roosevelt, Teton, Valley, and Yellowstone). LHDs and providers have been asked to:

1. Increase active surveillance activities to detect outbreaks and clusters of gastrointestinal illness promptly
2. Share "Guidelines for the Control of Suspected or Confirmed Outbreaks of Viral Gastroenteritis (Norovirus) in Long Term Care Facilities" with facilities in your jurisdiction.
3. Consider providing educational information regarding the prevention of norovirus information to the public.

Guidance documents can be found at: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/cdepi-norovirus.shtml>.

UPDATE! Salmonella Montevideo Outbreak – Salami - The CDC reports that 238 people have been infected with a matching strain of *Salmonella* Montevideo in at least 44 states and the District of Columbia. NO CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN MONTANA. Salami/salame has been identified as a possible source of illness: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/montevideo/index.html>. Daniele International Inc. has recalled a variety of ready-to-eat Italian-style meats. A complete listing of all recalled products and a list of the stores that sold these products can be found at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_006_2010_Products/index.asp².

INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! TB and International Adoptions – The situation in Haiti has brought to light the importance of health screening for international adoptees from countries with higher rates of tuberculosis than the US. *A summary of issues that must be considered is attached.* Questions? Call Denise Ingman at 444-0275. Information on screening for TB and other recommended screening (HIV, parasites, syphilis, vaccine recommendations, etc.), can be found at:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/recommendations-domestic-medical-screening-haitian-orphan.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/parents-adopting-children-haiti-earthquake.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/adoptees-tuberculosis-screening-faq.html>

NEW! HIV/STD Report Available – The HIV/STD End of Year Surveillance Report for 2009 is now available on the HIV Surveillance website at http://hivdata.hhs.mt.gov/pdf/Q4HIV_STDReport.pdf.

IMPORTANT! Communicable Disease Reporting 2009 Reconciliation – Many thanks to all of you who have assisted in reconciling 2009 data! Please call Elton Mosher at 444-3165 if you have any questions.

24/7 AVAILABILITY

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology program is available 24 hours a day/7days a week/365 days a year. Please call 406.444.0273 if you need immediate communicable disease epidemiology assistance. The answering service will take a message and we will return the call as quickly as possible.

This newsletter is produced by the Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program. Questions regarding its content should be directed to 406.444.0273 (24/7/365). For more information: <http://cdepi.hhs.mt.gov>.